GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3206
ANSWERED ON:06.09.2007
TAP GAS PIPELINE AGREEMENT
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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the tough attitude adopted by Iran with regard to the proposed gas pipeline Government has decided to join the Turkmenistan-Afghan-Pakistan (TAP) gas pipeline project to meet India's energy requirement ;

(b) if so, the latest prospects of procurement of gas through TAP; and

(c) the steps being taken in that direction?

Answer

ANSWER MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) to (c): In order to enhance the energy security for the country, Government is pursuing import of natural gas from Iran as well as from Turkmenistan through transnational gas pipelines. Regarding import of natural gas from Iran,various important issues are under discussions amongst the participating countries.

Regarding import of natural gas from Turkmenistan, an Indian delegation led by the Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas visited Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on February 14 and 15, 2006 to participate in the 9th Steering Committee Meeting of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) project as an 'Observer'. The Steering Committee invited India to become an official member of the project. Subsequently, after obtaining in-principle approval of the Government in May 2006, the matter was taken up with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the lead development partner of the project, in June 2006 to appropriately take up India's request for joining the project with the Governments of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan. During First Technical Working Group meeting held in Ashgabat on April 17-18, 2007, issues relating to gas reserves, gas availability, pricing structure, gas sales and Purchase Agreement, Framework and Inter- Governmental Agreement and key aspects of the pre-feasibility study by Technical Assistance consultant (PENSPEN, UK) requiring upgrading were discussed. Draft Framework Agreement has also been circulated by ADB for comments, for inclusion of India as an official member.